

JUNE 27, 1978

GUNTHER SCHULLER AT WOLFTRAP
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

TAPE: CUT ONE -- CASCADES

ESTAB, UNDER, AND OUT AT WILL (TOTAL CUT: 3:27)

NARR: THURSDAY EVENING THEY WERE IN MOSCOW, WINDING UP A TRIUMPHAL THREE-WEEK TOUR OF THE SOVIET UNION. ON SUNDAY, THEY WERE IN ANOTHER NATIONAL CAPITOL...THEIR OWN...WASHINGTON, D.C. GUNTHER SCHULLER AND HIS NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY RAGTIME BAND WERE MAKING THEIR ANNUAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THIS TIME IN THE SYLVAN SETTING OF WOLFTRAP FARM PARK, ON THE OUT-SKIRTS OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL. THE MUSIC, OF COURSE, WAS RAGTIME, WITH SOME OVERTONES OF JAZZ. AND, IF MR. SCHULLER AND HIS YOUNG MUSICIANS WERE SUFFERING FROM JET LAG, THEY CERTAINLY CONCEALED IT VERY WELL. THE GROUP HAD PLAYED TO PACKED HOUSES THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET UNION, AND THERE WERE FEW VACANT SEATS AT WOLFTRAP SUNDAY NIGHT. AT THE INTERMISSION, MR. SCHULLER REPORTED BRIEFLY ON THE RECEPTION OF HIS RAGTIMERS IN THE SOVIET UNION. MOST RUSSIANS, HE EXPLAINED, THINK OF AMERICAN MUSIC IN TERMS OF JAZZ OR ROCK, AND RAGTIME WAS A TOTALLY NEW EXPERIENCE FOR THEM. AFTER THEIR INITIAL SURPRISE, MR. SCHULLER SAID, THE SOVIETS TOOK TO THE MUSIC LIKE THE PROVERBIAL DUCK TAKES TO WATER. RAGTIME, HE COMMENTED, IS A HAPPY, POSITIVE MUSIC... MUSIC TO DANCE TO, TO LAUGH ALONG WITH...TO CLAP YOUR HANDS AND TAP YOUR FEET TO.

SUNDAY'S CONCERT RELIED HEAVILY ON THE WORKS OF THE GREAT RAGTIME COMPOSER, SCOTT JOPLIN, BUT OTHER COMPOSERS WHO MADE

NARR:
(CONT'D)

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RAGTIME ERA WERE NOT SLIGHTED...JAMES SCOTT...EUBIE BLAKE...AND THE MAN WHO INTRODUCED RAGTIME TO FRANCE AND THE REST OF THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT, JAMES REESE EUROPE. MR. EUROPE ORGANIZED AN ALL-BLACK RAGTIME BAND AND TOOK IT TO FRANCE AS PART OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR. AFTER THE ARMISTICE IN NOVEMBER NINETEEN EIGHTEEN, HE AND MOST OF HIS BAND REMAINED ON THE CONTINENT FOR A SERIES OF CONCERTS THAT, IN MR. SCHULLER'S WORDS, CHANGED THE MUSICAL TASTES OF THE WESTERN WORLD. A MAJOR HIGHLIGHT OF MR. EUROPE'S CAREER WAS HIS JOB AS MUSICAL DIRECTOR FOR THE BALLROOM DANCE TEAM FROM BRITAIN, VERNON AND IRENE CASTLE. THE CASTLES, ACCORDING TO MR. SCHULLER HAD AN IMPACT ON SOCIAL DANCING COMPARABLE TO THE IMPACT OF RAGTIME. HERE IS A TUNE MR. EUROPE COMPOSED FOR THE CASTLES: CASTLE HOUSE RAG, ONE OF THE CLIMATIC NUMBERS AT THE NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY RAGTIME BAND'S HOMECOMING CONCERT AT WOLFTRAP FARM PARK:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- CASTLE HOUSE RAG FADE TO TIME.

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BML/RTD